

## G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT AT ELLENSBURGH.

ELLENSBURGH has again shown her ability to accommodate a large number of visitors and entertain them royally. On the thirtieth of April and the first of May the Grand Army of the Republic for the department of Washington held its annual encampment in that city. There were present also Gen. Russell A. Alger, commander in chief of the order in the United States, and Mrs. John A. Logan, widow of that great citizen soldier, to whom is chiefly due the institution of that beautiful custom of observing a memorial day for honoring the loyal dead and strewing their graves with flowers.

The first day was given up chiefly to business. The annual meeting was held. A. J. Smith, assistant adjutant general, reported that during the year the number of posts in the department had increased from forty-three to fifty-one, one of the new posts being in Juneau, Alaska, which is attached to the Washington department. The total membership is 1960. The report of department commander, S. G. Cosgrove, showed the order to be in the most satisfactory condition. The report of Mrs. Lucy Aide, president of the Woman's Relief Corps, showed a total strength of 532 in that auxiliary organization, being a gain for the year of 137. In the evening a meeting was held in the wigwam, which was addressed by General Alger and others.

In the forenoon of the following day there was a parade through the streets of Ellensburg, participated in by 200 veterans, including General Alger. On either hand rose the solid brick walls of the city, where, but nine months ago were heaps of smoldering ruins. At the business meeting in the afternoon, Puyallup was selected as the scene of the next encampment, and the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Department commander, M. M. Holmes, Seattle; senior vice-commander, A. J. Smith, Walla Walla; junior vice-commander, David Stamp, Vancouver; medical examiner, H. C. Bostwick, Tacoma; chaplain, J. P. St. Clair, Ballard; delegates to the national convention, Will Visscher, Fairhaven; C. B. Dunning, Spokane Falls. The encampment came to a close with a ball in the wigwam, which was largely attended.

The new department commander, M. M. Holmes, is clerk of King county and a resident of Seattle. He is a native of New Hampshire, and on one side is the eighth descendant of Rev. John Cotton, who emigrated from England to Boston in 1635. He was born on the farm first settled by William Holmes, who emigrated from the north of Ireland to New Hampshire in 1730. He graduated at the New London Literary and Scientific Institute, in July, 1862, and August 20, 1862, enlisted in company H, Fourteenth N. H. infantry.

The regiment was on provost duty a year in Washington city and he served as sergeant of the guard at different points, including the executive mansion, old Capital prison, Central guard house, Sixth street wharf and the Long bridge. In the spring of 1864 the regiment went to Louisiana, returning to the James river in front of Richmond in July. In August the Fourteenth N. H. joined the army of the Shenandoah under Sheridan, and was attached to the First brigade, Second division, Nineteenth army corps. The commissioned officers being absent, Holmes, then first sergeant, commanded his company during Sheridan's campaign and at its close was commissioned first lieutenant and presented with a sword by his colonel. He was before Richmond till December, 1864, when the division was ordered to Savannah, Ga., and although the youngest officer in the command, Holmes was placed in charge of the refugees of the district of Savannah, and under the orders of General Sherman sent about 30,000 negroes to the islands off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia, where the celebrated Sea Island cotton is raised. Declining a commission in the regular army, he was mustered out with his regiment in July, 1865, and entered Dartmouth college in the fall. He moved to Seattle from Chicago in 1883. Commander Holmes joined the Grand Army in 1867, and was a post commander in 1870. He has been a leading member of Stevens Post, filling the office of commander for several terms. He was also the organizer of the Union Veteran club, of which he has been president for several successive terms. Last year he was an aide-de-camp on the staff of the commander-in-chief.

Such occasions as this draw attention to the wonderful recuperative power Ellensburg has displayed in recovering from the terrible calamity that befell the city nine months ago. On the 4th of July last the entire business portion of the city was laid in ashes, and to-day the streets are lined with solid brick blocks far exceeding in number, cost, size and substantial character the structures destroyed. The inherent vitality displayed in building up a new city upon the ruins of the old one in so short a period is proof of its substantial character as a city of permanent position and certain growth. Surrounding Ellensburg and solely tributary to it is an empire rich in varied resources of timber, gold, silver, iron, coal, lime stone, and vast areas of grazing and agricultural lands. It is a division headquarters of the great Northern Pacific railroad, and its citizens are constructing a railroad of their own to the Columbia river, where it will connect with boats on that mighty stream, thus placing the city in easy connection with the great Okanogan mining districts. No less than two other great railroad lines that will traverse Washington from east to west have their routes laid out by the way of Ellensburg.